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What's in a name? Ask folks in Droop, Ding Dong or Ogle

WASHINGTON (AP) — Oh, to be chumming on Lake Chargogga-goggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg.

By the time you've pronounced it, you've probably hooked a bass in this popular fishing spot in southern Massachusetts, which boasts the longest name in the United States. Also known as Lake Webster, its Indian name means, "I fish on my side, you fish on your side and nobody fishes in the middle."

The lake is among dozens of geographic oddities celebrated in a new Library of Congress exhibition titled "A World of Names," which opens Thursday through Jan. 15.

The show marks the 100th anniversary of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names, the federal authority that has officially recognized nearly 7 million foreign and domestic names for use in government maps and publications.

If you're an optimist, you'll feel at home in Top of the World, N.M., or Carefree, Ariz. If you're a pessimist, you might be more comfortable in Lowpoint, Ill., or Droop, W.Va.

The romantically inclined will enjoy an odyssey through Venus, Texas, and Romeo, Mich., followed by Ogle, Ky.; Valentine, Neb.; Kissimmee, Fla.; Romance, Ark.; Bridal Veil, Ore., and Blissville, Vt.

When Christmas comes, you'll find a holiday mood in 836 places across America with "Bethlehem" in their names. There are a dozen places named "holly" in Maryland, a town called Santa Claus in Georgia and an Oregon stream called Donner and Blitzen.

There's a Yankeetown and a Crackertown in Florida, towns called Laurel and Hardy in Iowa, Burns and Allen in Michigan, Carpenter and Hammer in South Dakota, and Narrows and Tight Squeeze in Virginia. Not to mention Ding Dong, Texas.

Former Names of Heb